

None of this would have happened but for the doggedness of the Senator from Connecticut. He simply would not give up when many said it could not be done.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I noted earlier the support of House Members who did a tremendous job in getting a bill done. I talked about BOB NEY and STENY HOYER. Obviously, bills do not get done just because they get done in the Senate. They can only finally get to the President's desk if the other body also acts, and without the leadership of BOB NEY of Ohio and STENY HOYER of Maryland, the Chair and ranking Members of the House Administration Committee, we never would have had a negotiation to produce this product.

So I want to extend my appreciation to them and to JOHN CONYERS, who was my coarchitect of this bill going back now a year and a half ago, who wanted to be available in Washington this morning, but he got delayed on a flight and could not be present for this final vote. When I first announced this bill, I stood in the room with two people. One was John Sweeney of the AFL-CIO. The other one was JOHN CONYERS, the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus in the House. JOHN CONYERS was a tremendous supporter of this effort all the way through. I am very grateful to him, again grateful to STENY HOYER, BOB NEY, and a whole host of people who made this possible: The NAACP, the AFL-CIO, disability groups across the country, the National Association of Secretaries of State. There is a long list of organizations that rallied behind this effort, and without their support we would not have been able to arrive at this moment.

So I thank all of those who were involved in this. I thank my colleague from Nevada for his very kind and generous comments.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:42 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CORZINE).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 5010, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5010), making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending

September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 9, 2002.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 15 minutes for debate, 5 minutes each for the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. INOUE, and the Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, and the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here today with my co-chairman Senator STEVENS to present our recommendations to the Senate on the conference report for H.R. 5010, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2003.

The conference agreement represents a compromise reached after a month-long series of discussions by the managers.

Our recommendations bring the total in the bill to \$355.1 billion, \$298 million below the Senate passed bill and \$395 million above the House level.

This conference agreement represents a good faith effort to balance the priorities of the House and Senate in meeting our National Security requirements. I am confident it achieves that objective.

Our time is brief today, so I will not detail all of the items in this measure. But I want to make three points.

First, this bill is likely to be one of the two appropriations bills to be completed before the election. As such, there were many items that members sought to have included in this conference report. I am happy to report to the Senate that no extraneous matters were included by the conferees. This is a very clean bill.

Second, last week the Senate passed a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. It is imperative we pass this bill before we recess to ensure our forces have the support they require to carry out whatever missions our Nation asks them.

Third, I commend my co chairman, Senator STEVENS, for his work on this bill. He was instrumental in defending many of the priorities of the Senate, including our efforts to support strong financial management in DoD: Fully funding the C-17 program and paying off our unfunded liability on shipbuilding programs.

As always, my friend was assisted in this by his very capable staff led by Steve Cortese, and including Sid Ashworth, Kraig Siracuse, Jennifer Chartrand, Alicia Farrell, and Nicole Royal. I also want to note the fine work of my staff: Charlie Houy, David Morrison, Susan Hogan, Mazie Mattson, Tom Hawkins, Bob Henke,

Leslie Kalan, Menda Fife, and Betsy Schmid.

Mr. President, finally I commend the House for their courtesy and cooperation. Chairman LEWIS and Representative MURTHA could not have been more gracious. While there were many issues upon which we differed, we were able to resolve those in a friendly and constructive fashion.

I note as well the great work of their fine staff led by Kevin Roper and Greg Dahlberg, and including:

Betsy Phillips, Doug Gregory, Alicia Jones, Greg Walters, Paul Juola, Steve Nixon, David Norquist, Greg Lankler, Clelia Alvarado, Paul Terry, Sarah Young, Sherry Young, Chris Mallard, David Killian and Bill Gnacek.

Mr. President this is a good bill, it is exactly what our armed forces need, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here with my distinguished colleague from Hawaii to offer this bill. It is the largest Defense bill in history. It is a bill that merits the support of every Member of the Senate.

I do congratulate Senator INOUE for his leadership and for his hard work and cooperation with the Members of the House, whom he has named, with whom we have worked on this bill.

We have had different views on this bill, but we have proceeded without rancor and I think worked out a compromise that is satisfactory to the administration, particularly the Department of Defense and the President. I believe it is a balanced and fair bill.

There were nearly \$18 billion in differences between the House and Senate bills. All of these have been reconciled within the limits of discretion and with good will. I think these compromises should receive overwhelming support from the Department because they actually make the bill much more functional, more workable. It is the kind of bill that we should have in the times we are in now, where we are close to a very difficult problem as far as Iraq is concerned.

This bill fully funds all military requirements for the armed services. It contains a 4.1-percent pay increase and lifetime health care benefits for the military retirees.

It further reduces the out-of-pocket costs for some of the military families who do not have the benefit of on-base housing.

We really have tried to strike a balance between near-term readiness and the investments we must make for the future, as far as our defense establishment is concerned.

This bill mandates full funding for six Stryker brigades to transform our ground combat forces and adds funds for future combat systems.

For the Navy, funding the CVN-X and the DD-X and the littoral combat ship and the *Virginia* class submarine,